

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-11, 14-20, 22 and 23 will be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein (so that claims 1-25 are canceled), and claims 26, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 36 will be amended, whereby allowed claims 26-38 will remain pending. Claims 26, 27, 29, 34, 35, 36 and 38 are independent claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Petition For Correction of Inventorship

Applicants are submitting on even date herewith a Petition for Correction of Inventorship Under 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b). In particular, the inventorship is being corrected due to claim cancellation/amendment whereby fewer than all of the currently named inventors are the actual inventors of the remaining claims. Thus, Hiroshi SUSAKI and Mashiro IKEDA are being deleted as inventors, whereby Yoshinobu SHIOSE, Hiroshi KUGA, Hiroshi KORENAGA and Kazuhiro INOUE remain as inventors of the presently claimed subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration and granting of this Petition in the next communication from the Patent and Trademark Office.

Response To Formal Matters

Applicants express appreciation for the forwarding of an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted on February 24, 2003, whereby the Examiner's consideration of information submitted therewith is of record.

Applicants also express appreciation for the indication that the drawings filed July 2, 2001 are accepted.

Applicants are submitting herewith an Application Data Sheet including the inventors' (the presently named inventors prior to entry of the Petition for Correction of Inventorship) residences as follows:

Hiroshi SUSAKI: Matsudo-shi, Chiba, JAPAN

Kazuhiro INOUE: Funabashi-shi, Chiba, Japan

Hiroshi KUGA: Koto-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Masahiro IKEDA: Edogawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Yoshinobu SHIOSE: Koto-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Hiroshi KORENAGA: Chiba-shi, Chiba, Japan

Thus, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.76(c)(2), Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Application Data Sheet (hereinafter "SADS") in which only the information to be changed is identified, i.e., the residences of the inventors. However, to assist Patent and Trademark Office personnel and to ensure that this SADS is associated with the appropriate file, the following fields are also completed: Application number and filing date; the Attorney docket number; and the Customer number.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the attached SADS to ensure that the identified information is accurately printed on the face of the printed patent.

Response To Restriction Requirement

Applicants express appreciation for the courtesies extended by the Examiner during an October 17, 2003 telephone interview wherein the restriction requirement was discussed with the result that the non-elected subject matter would be rejoined and searched, and the finality of the Office Action was withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicants acknowledge withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and the action based upon all of the subject matter recited in each of the pending claims.

Response To Indication Of Allowable Subject Matter And Rejections Based Upon Prior Art

Applicants express appreciation for the indication that claims 34, 35, 37 and 38 are allowed, and that claims 27, 29-31 and 36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

In response, to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, Applicants have:

- (a) Canceled rejected claims 1-11, 14-20, 22 and 23;
- (b) Amended claim 26 by including allowable subject matter recited in claim 30 by reciting in claim 26 that the polymer carrier comprises a polysaccharide derivative having carboxyl groups;
- (c) Amended claims 27, 29 and 36 to be in independent form; and

(d) Amended claim 30 to depend upon claim 27 and amended claim 31 to depend upon claim 26.

In view of the above, claims 26, 27, 29, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 should be allowable.

Moreover, claims 28, 31, 32 and 33 depend upon allowable claim 26, and claim 27 depends upon claim 27. Accordingly, these claims should also be allowable.

Applicants again note that the amendments herein have been made merely to advance prosecution of the present application to allowance. In particular, Applicants are maintaining the right to file the canceled subject matter in one or more divisional and/or continuation applications. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of claims and rejected subject matter is merely being made to advance this application to allowance, and does not express any agreement and/or acquiescence with any rejection and/or supporting argument of record. In this regard, Applicants reserve their right to submit arguments against the rejections of record in continuing applications, including arguments as to the insufficient bases and inadequacies of the rejections, as well as secondary considerations including advantages associated with Applicants' invention.

In view of the above, allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection and rejections of record, and allow all the pending claims.

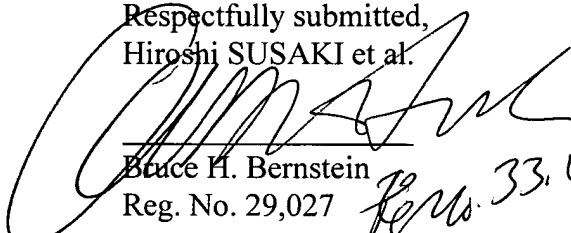
P20953.A14

Application No. 09/807,980

Allowance of the application is requested, with an early mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to further discuss this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi SUSAKI et al.



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